lines 54-63. As shown in Fig. 5 and described at column 10, lines 54-63 of Betsuyaku, the guide members 9 present guide faces 11 which provide the guidance function. Therefore, if the positioning pin 14 is not properly aligned relative to the positioning ribs 5, the guide faces 11 contact the positioning pin 14 and guide the positioning ribs 5 relative to the positioning pin 14 and into a position where the concave portion 8 of the positioning ribs 5 and the pin 14 are aligned as shown in Fig. 5. The guide members 9 do not mate with the positioning pin 14, as required by claim 20, to thereby fix the position of the container body but, rather, serve merely to guide the concave portion 8 to the positioning pin 14.

In contradistinction to the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku, the V-shaped groove plate pieces of the present invention mate with (fit on) the positioning pin and thereby position the container body. Therefore, the V-shaped groove plate pieces of the present invention roughly correspond to the "concave portion 8" of Betsuyaku, not the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku, as erroneously asserted by the Examiner.

Applicants' claim 20 defines the V-shaped groove plate pieces as being accurately positioned and supported by "supporting stands". However, the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku are attached to the positioning means 4 with an adhesive or a plurality of screws as taught by Betsuyaku at column 10, lines 39-42. Accordingly, it would be impossible to use the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku to accurately position the container body.

Nowhere does Betsuyaku teach that the guide members 9 are supported by the positioning ribs 5 as would be necessary to read applicants' claim 20 on the structure of Betsuyaku. On the contrary, Figs. 5 and 6 of Betsuyaku show a clearance around the positioning ribs 5, separating them from the guide members 9. Therefore, the guide members 9 cannot possibly be supported by the positioning ribs 5 in Betsuyaku. That claim 20 defines, **as structure** , the V-shaped groove plate pieces supported by the supporting stands cannot be denied. Even if the Examiner is correct in not treating the language in question as within "the purview of 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph," he cannot properly ignore structural limitations.

As noted above, the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku merely function as guiding means for guiding the body positioning means 4 to the positioning pin 14. The guide members 9 never mate with the positioning pin to position the container body as required by claim 20 of the V-shaped groove plate pieces.

Because the V-shaped groove plate pieces of the present invention directly mate with (connect with) the positioning pin, they have the same function as the concave portion 8 of the body positioning means 4 of Betsuyaku, a function totally different than that of the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku. Further, as noted above, the positioning ribs 5 do not serve to accurately support and position the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku.

At page 3 of the office action the Examiner correctly notes: In the embodiment of figures 4-6, Betsuyaku discloses integrally formed slots 3 on the sidewalls .... " the slots 3 shown in Figs. 4 to 6 of of Betsuyaku are members for supporting wafers W. The slots 3 support wafers W from the lower side. This also applies to the slotted plates 3A in Fig. 1. Indeed, the slots 3 and slotted plates 3A of Betsuyaku correspond to "slotted plates .... for supporting the thin plates housed therein from opposing sides" of the present invention. Applicants do not take issue with the foregoing. However, the slots 3 and slotted plates 3A are irrelevant to the V-shaped groove pieces of the present invention.

Summarizing, claim 20 recites structure not disclosed or suggested by Betsuyaku, as noted above. Further, the positioning means 4, the positioning ribs 5, and the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku have totally different functions than do the "supporting stands" and "V-shaped groove plate pieces" recited by claim 20. Even with benefit of the disclosure of the positioning means 4, the positioning ribs 5, and the guide members 9 of Betsuyaku, a person skilled in the art could not have conceived of the body positioning means or supporting stands of the present invention. Therefore, claim 20 should be found allowable.

Claim 23

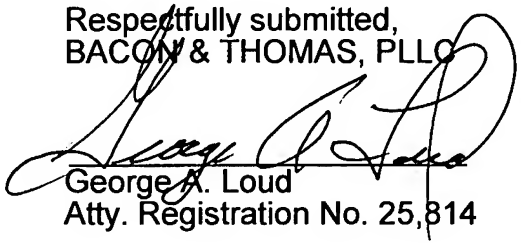
The rejection as applied to claim 23 is further traversed. In rejecting claim 23 the Examiner is arbitrarily combining features of the first embodiment of Betsuyaku, referring to Figs. 5 and 6 (Figs. 1-7 show a "first embodiment") with features of the third embodiment shown in Fig. 9, without presenting any rationale for the combination (modification?). Further, from the discussion of the "bottom plate 15" at column 11, line 35 to column 36, line 41, it should be understood that bottom plate and integral guide members 9A support the positioning ribs 5 and the container, rather than vice versa.

Claim 27

The rejection as applied to claim 27 is further traversed. As noted above, features of the structure of Fig. 9 should not be arbitrarily combined with those of the first embodiment. Further, features 16, 17 do not include "a locking pawl, extending from the distal edge of each inclined plate", as recited by claim 27. Bottom plate is not "V-shaped groove plate pieces".

In conclusion, again, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



George A. Loud
Atty. Registration No. 25,814

June 21, 2007

Dkt: MATS3024

625 Slaters Lane
Fourth Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-0500